

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 725

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the late Kenneth Neal on the occasion of his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly specially recognize those outstanding citizens who dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is the late Kenneth Neal, who was posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 5, 2016, for his legacy in continuing the time-honored tradition of the family farm; and

WHEREAS, born April 24, 1926, Kenneth Neal was a lifelong resident of the Tucker's Crossroads community and worked on his farm in that community until his passing in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Neal's parents were Pal-las and Bennie Neal, and his grandfather was William Haskell Neal, the developer of Neal's Paymaster Corn; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal's three sons, Pal, Phil, and Perry Neal, continue to work the family farm with a beef cattle operation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his farm work, Mr. Neal was active in the Farm Bureau Agency on both the local and state levels, serving as director-at-large at the state level from 1987 until 1994; he also served as president of the Wilson County Farm Bureau from 1982 until he became ill in 1999; and

WHEREAS, he was selected Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1972 and served on the board of directors for the Wilson Farmers Co-op and Lebanon Bank; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Neal married Ina Swan in 1957, and the couple built a house on the farm and raised their four children there; and

WHEREAS, Ina Neal taught school at Tuckers Crossroads School, while her husband farmed full time, primarily raising tobacco, corn, and beef cattle; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal attended Bethlehem Church of Christ his entire life and served as a deacon for sixteen years and elder for eleven years; and

WHEREAS, a public servant in his community, Mr. Neal donated land for and was instrumental in building a softball park for the children of the Tucker's Crossroads community; two generations of children have now enjoyed using the facility; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal was also an avid supporter of Friendship Christian School and served on its board of directors for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles in their chosen vocation, and it is fitting that this General Assembly honor the memory of the late Kenneth Neal for his valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of the late Kenneth Neal on the occasion of his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, as we reflect fondly upon his many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.